



LEAP Online

Supporting Learning and Teaching



www.bolton.ac.uk/leaponline

LEAP Online - Designed to Support You

Introduction

LEAP Online is an interactive digital resource for promoting student learning development and information literacy at the University of Bolton. LEAP Online was launched in September 2017 as part of a renewed approach to learning development and information literacy at the University.

LILAC: The Information Literacy Conference

dLA Digital Information Literacy Award 2018

The impact of LEAP Online has been externally recognised. In April 2018, LEAP Online received a prestigious national award: The LILAC Digital Award for Information Literacy 2018. This was awarded by CILIP's Information Literacy Group. This led to greater recognition within the University of Bolton and amongst learning developers and information literacy professionals in the wider community (LDHEN, JISC, ALT)



The external judges commented:

“ This is well thought-through and the front end is visually appealing. It has a strong underpinning framework that enables students to develop their skills in a scaffolded way, with clear links to the curriculum and to employability. There is evidence of positive student engagement with the resource through badges gained and survey feedback. ”

LILAC Judging Panel (2018)

Impact on Student Journey

“ Completing the activities on LEAP Online has provided me with the skills, knowledge and confidence to enhance my progress in all academic areas. I have so far achieved Grade A in my first three university modules. ”

Louise Day, Trainee Nursing Associate, University of Bolton

“ The Trainee Nursing Associate programme commenced in January 2017 and was developed to create a brand new nursing role in health care. It was envisaged that the role would create opportunities for existing and new health care staff to develop their careers in nursing. Many of the students who applied for the programme were either new to education or had studied but this had been some time ago. LEAP Online has been a fundamental aspect of the curriculum development for these students and has provided additional resources to supplement formal teaching. ”

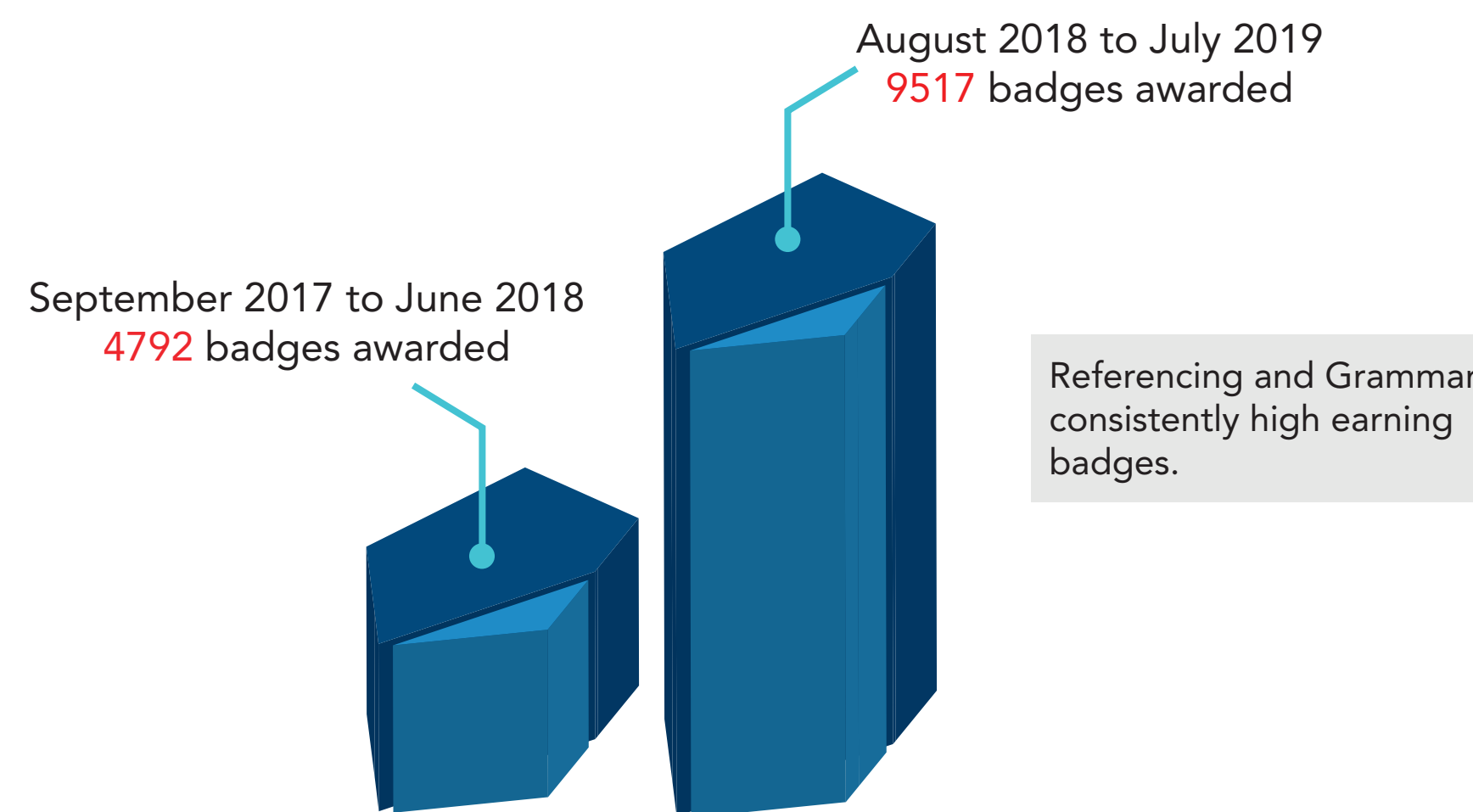
This has enabled students to participate in online learning at a time and pace which has been conducive to meeting their individual needs. Following the implementation of LEAP Online it was clear that those students who were engaged and completing the badges saw a significant improvement in their academic achievement and also confidence. Louise Day has been a prime example of this. Students also started to engage in healthy competition to attain their badges and verbally reported how LEAP Online had increased not only their knowledge but also their enjoyment of learning new skills. ”

Helen Lord, Senior Lecturer - District Nursing, University of Bolton

Digital Badges

Badge Data - Supporting Students at the University of Bolton

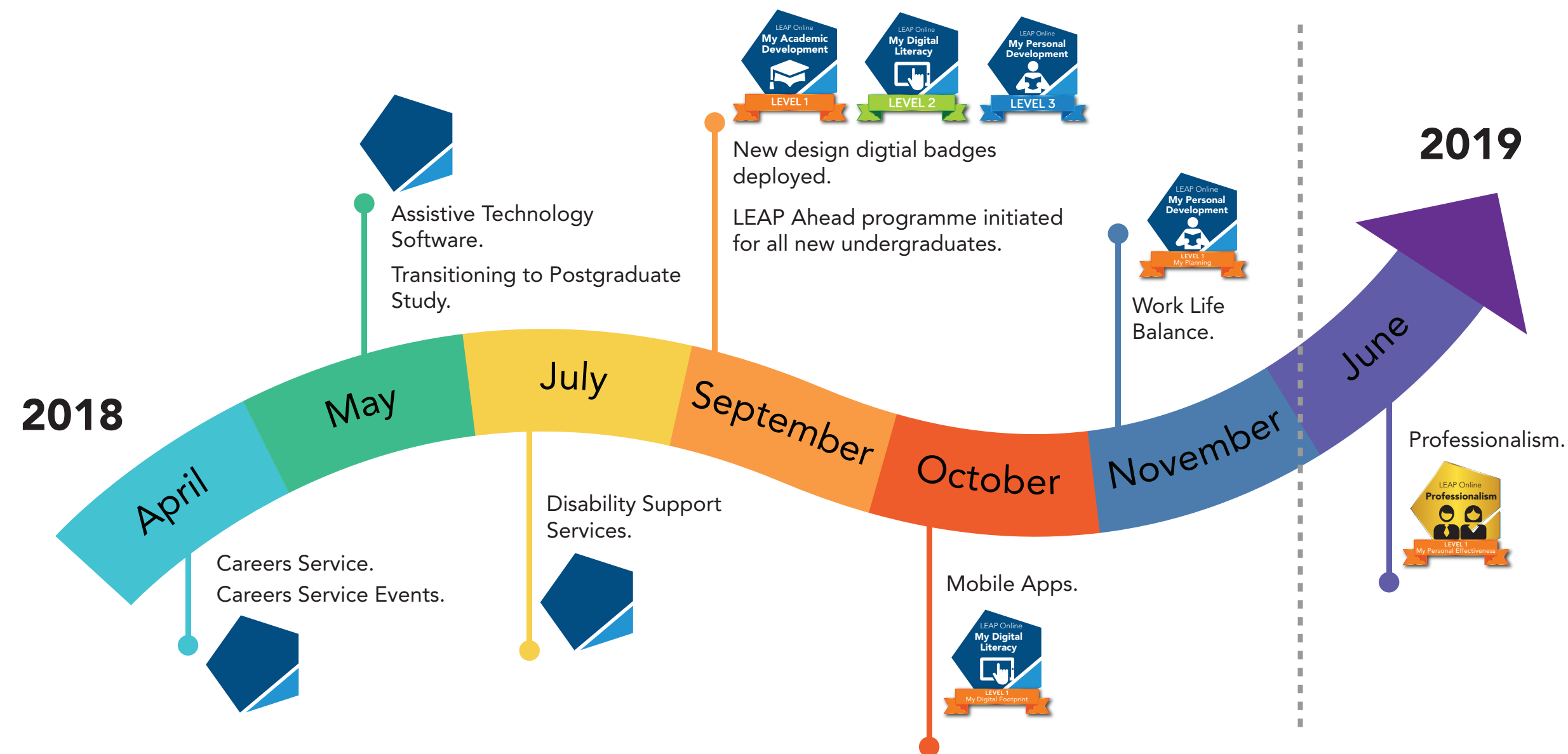
The badged assessments and alignment with Moodle has ensured that LEAP Online has become firmly embedded into the established student learning environment. In measuring the success of LEAP Online, a useful measure (although not the only measure) of student engagement is the acquisition of digital badges. Quantitative data from learning analytics shows a dramatic rise in the number of badges awarded between August 2018 and July 2019 in comparison to a similar period between September 2017 and June 2018.



Developing New Content

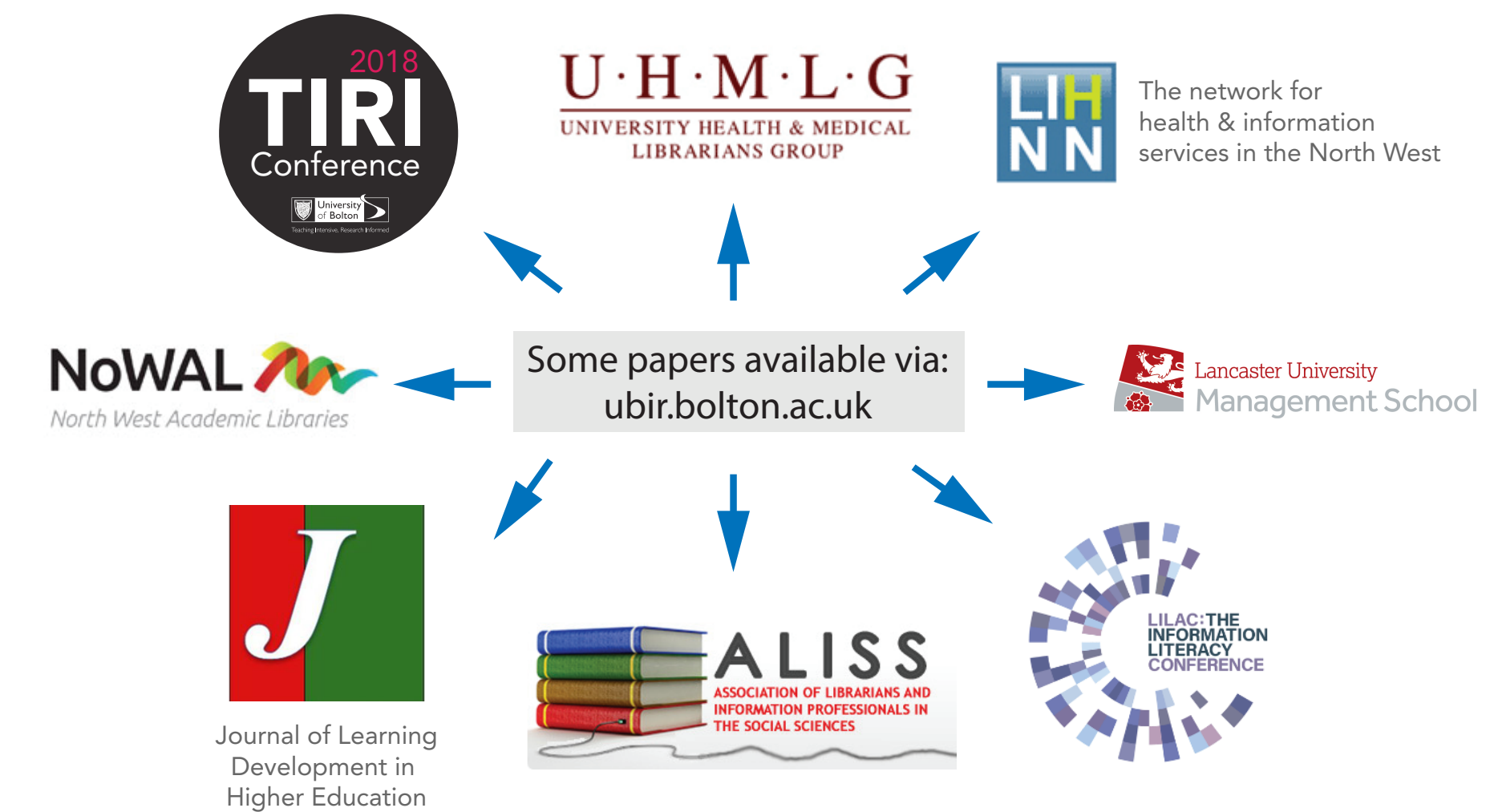
During the past 12 months we have collaborated with academics and professional services within the University to develop a range of new LEAP Online sections (see below). In addition, we were pleased to launch 'Transitioning to Postgraduate Study', written for LEAP Online by a postgraduate student.

One notable collaboration has been our work with Heather Jackson (Senior Lecturer - School of Nursing & Midwifery) to develop the Professionalism section of LEAP Online. Originally designed for Nursing students, the section now has a wider University context and even it's own special digital badge!



Sharing Good Practice

Sharing our work regionally and nationally across all our areas of expertise has given us an excellent opportunity to showcase the University of Bolton and how LEAP Online has impacted on student retention and success. Some examples of where we have championed LEAP Online and shared our expertise are shown below.



Future Developments



The LEAP team are currently working with the Standards & Enhancement Office and Student Experience to deploy Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum badges to students' HEAR report. These will be awarded based on the number of badges earned within LEAP Online. From September 2019, badge data will also be used as a trigger point for #UniAsItShouldBe rewards.

You said... We did...

A result of staff and student feedback, we are taking steps to make LEAP Online more responsive on mobile devices. This will be particularly beneficial for students accessing LEAP Online on their daily commute or for those who engage in work based learning.

Developing new sections for LEAP Online

We are working to develop new sections for HEAR Report, Managing Money and further levels of the Professionalism section.

Collaboration

If you have any content ideas or suggestions for LEAP Online or would like to share your good practice in embedding LEAP Online into the curriculum - we are creating a bank of case studies so please get in touch with us!

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